

January 26, 2017

Doug Brown, CAO  
Town of Fort Frances  
320 Portage Avenue  
Fort Frances, ON P9A3P9

RE: The need for a new sidewalk along McIrvine Rd

Dear Doug,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Parent Council at Fort Frances High School in regards to a safety issue that we feel needs to be addressed. This past year there have been a few changes at the school which we feel make the need for a sidewalk running along the east side of McIrvine from the school entrance to Hwy 11/71 very pressing. The first is the addition of the Grade 7/8s to the school student body. These younger students are attending the school, and some of them are walking to school from the lights on McIrvine/Hwy 11/71. Once they cross from the south side of the Hwy, they either have to walk on McIrvine or struggle through the snow covered ditch to make it to the newly constructed sidewalk that runs from the school along the driveway right up to McIrvine.

The new students, as well as the new sidewalk used by other students, mean there is more foot traffic than ever that is entering the school off McIrvine without the benefit of being able to walk on a safe sidewalk. Students from the Trailer Park have to walk the last section through the Canadian Tire parking lot if they want to avoid walking through the ditch or on the road. This is not safe either, and is basically an accident waiting to happen. We would request that Town of Fort Frances look into the feasibility of building a sidewalk from the Hwy to the school. Not only is safety a concern for us, but accessibility is also an issue. Whether it is children riding bikes or people in wheelchairs, they shouldn't have to be forced to try to find an entrance to the school behind Carl's Eatery or go around through the lane near J.W. Walker.

I know that budgets are always tight, and funds are needed in many places, but with the amount of traffic in that area, and the fact that we are talking the safety of the children and youth of Fort Frances, we believe this is a matter of utmost importance. I look forward to hearing your response to our request.

Sincerely,

Conrad Dueck  
Chair  
Fort Frances High School Parent Council.